Aotearoa Black Press #3

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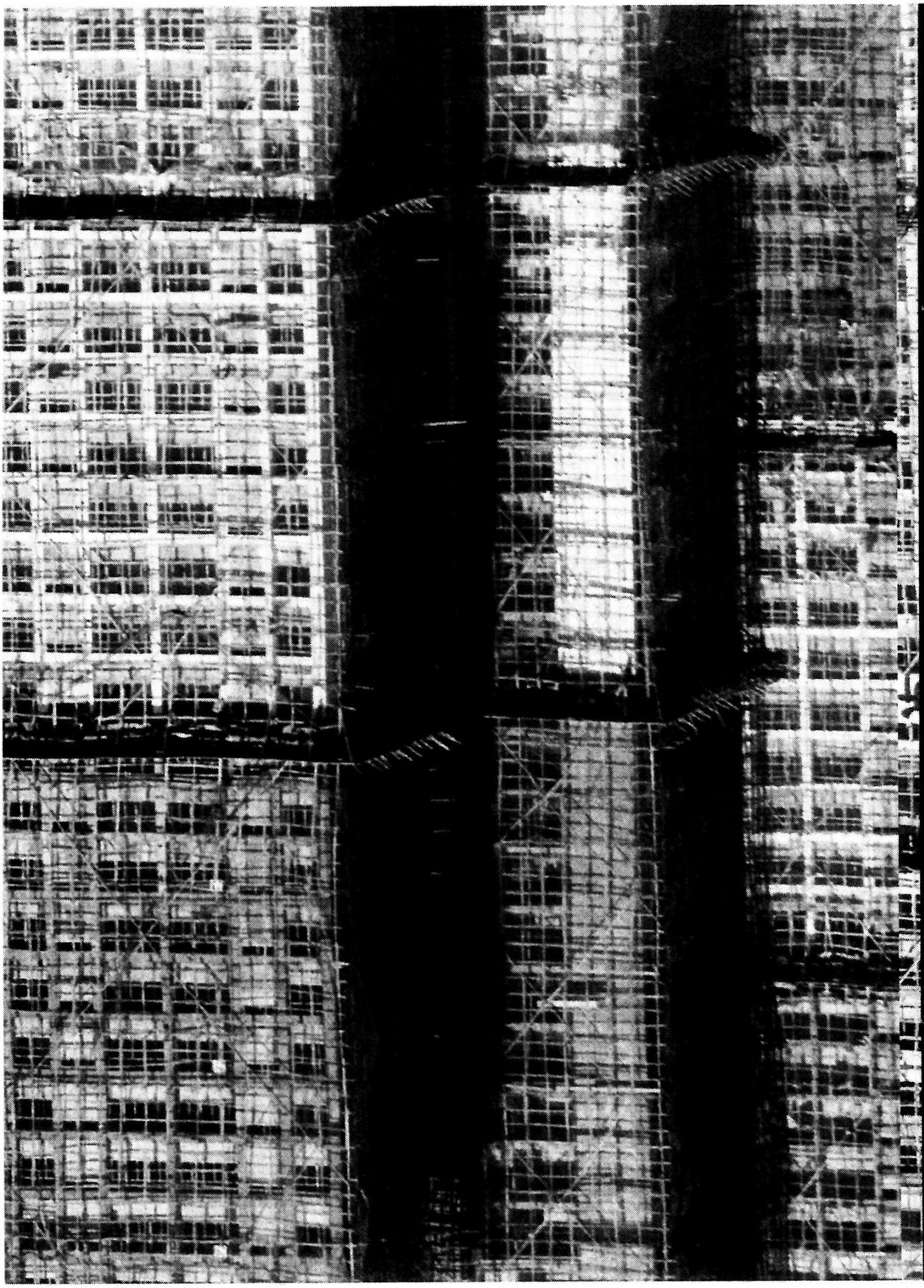
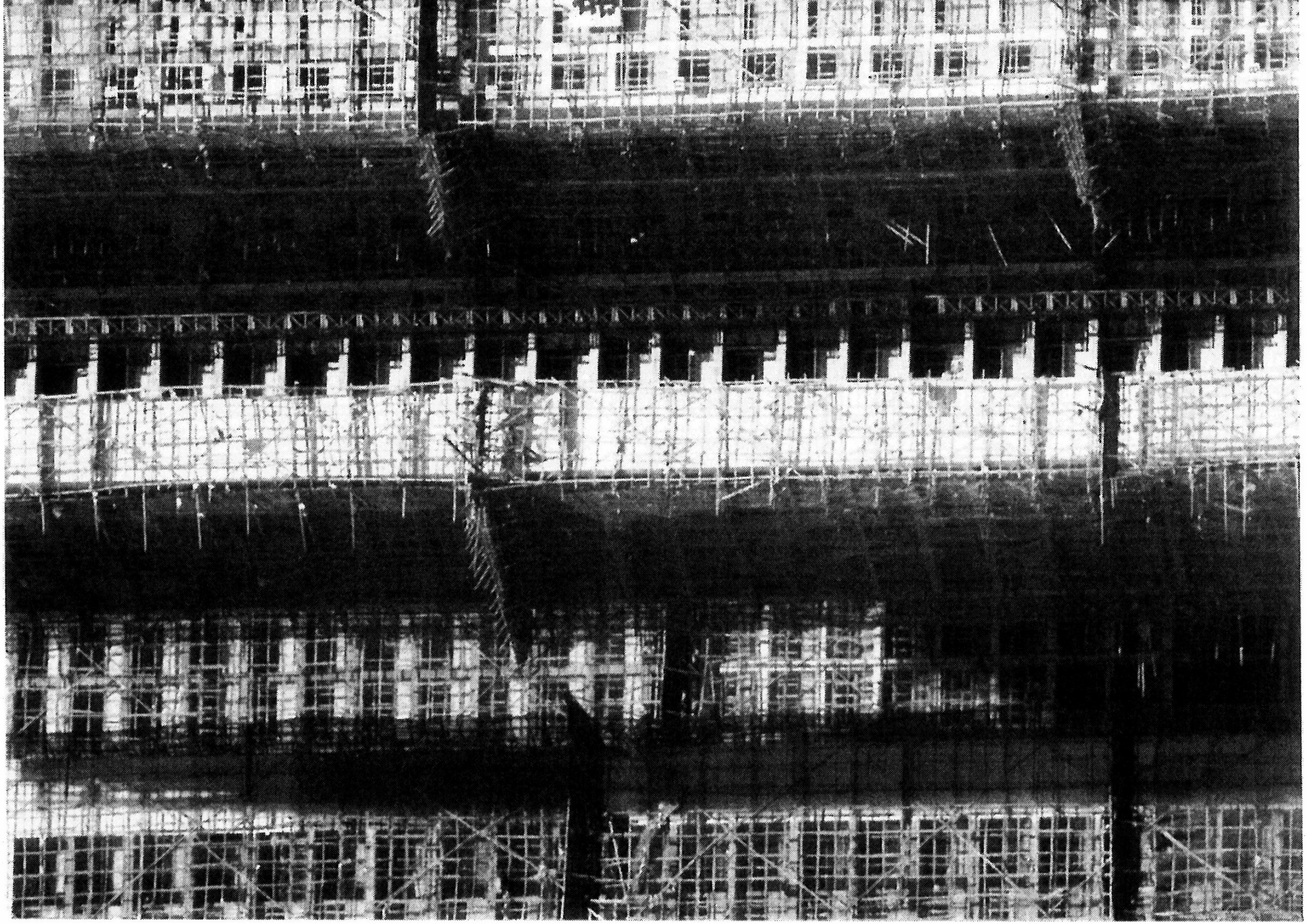
TROOPS





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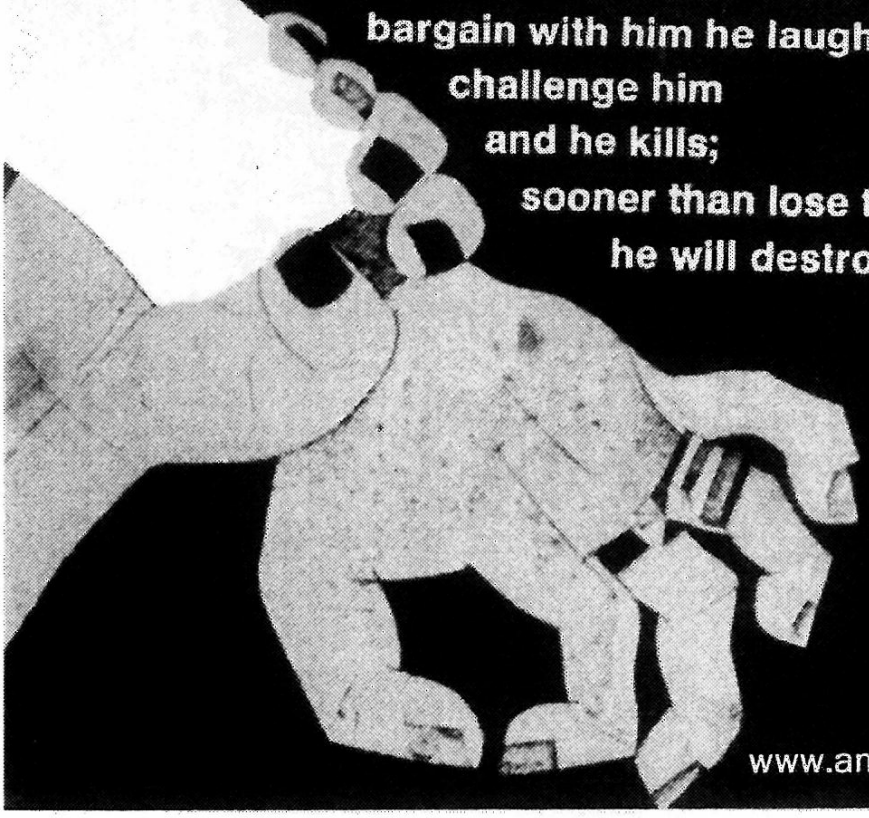
Know thy enemy.
He does not care what colour you are
provided you work for him;
he does not care how much you earn
provided you earn more for him;
he does not care who lives in the room at the top
provided he owns the building;
he will let you say whatever you like against him
provided you do not act against him;
he sings the praises of humanity
but knows machines cost more than men;
bargain with him he laughs and beats you at it;
challenge him
and he kills;
sooner than lose the things he owns
he will destroy the world.



www.anarchosyndicalism.org

www.anarchistfaq.org

Contributions, critique, praise to

hipasfuhk@yahoo.co.nz

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ABP #3 Introduction

It's been two weeks since our last issue.

The demand for copies has outstripped our supply; to cut costs we have been forced to lay off some of our staff. We picked out the people with the biggest families first, ha ha!

On a somewhat more serious note, we do not just allow people to copy and distribute the zine – we actively encourage it. As it is printed on plain old A4 paper, you can just unstaple the middle and make photocopies. Give them to friends, leave them in cafes, stuff them in mailboxes, send them in those "Business Reply Only" envelopes to bored mailroom employees - use your imagination! Our distribution network is limited only to Auckland at this time. If you happen to live elsewhere in the country (or the world) and you'd like to get your hands on some, please write us.

A big thanks to our comrades for giving us a bunch of reams of paper; any further donations of paper or printing supplies/services would rock. If you send us enough money or gifts, we will send you some cute photos and/or heartwrenching stories.

Somewhere in Auckland, a little zine editor waits...

LA CRUZ

What do anarchists do?

When people fear the government, there is tyranny. When government fears the people, there is liberty.
--Thomas Paine

The media is fond of mischaracterizing anarchists, turning us into all sorts of boogeymen -- nihilistic terrorists, anti-technology dimwits, chaos-mongering hooligans, maniacal vandals -- to the extent that, at least in the American media, "anarchist" is a dirty word, representing an unreasonable "extremist" point-of-view.

But is this true? Are we really all of those bad things? To understand what anarchists are really about -- that is, to escape the trap of media hype, you have to look beyond that caricature and see what anarchists really do.

You'll find that anarchists are a lot like you -- everyday working people, almost uniformly poor (I've yet to meet a rich radical). The difference between anarchists and the rest of society is not our firm commitment to ideas like *liberty, equality, solidarity, decentralization, environmentalism, direct democracy, cooperation, community, and federalism.* Because anarchists recognize that a majority of Americans value these things, too.

Rather, what distinguishes anarchists from the rest of society is our emphasis on **direct action** to achieve our goals. We feel that direct action is the most effective means of social protest, in that it puts power into the hands of everyday people, instead of in the hands of those who claim to represent their interests.

This is a key component of the anarchist method, and is the most frightening thing to the elites that run our society. See, they're comfortable with the majority of society in a *passive*, bystander role to what goes on. They believe firmly in the "silence = consent" principle of running a society, and are typically brutal in dealing with those who will not keep silent.

The worst nightmare for those who run society is for the majority of citizens to rise up and begin dealing with what troubles them directly -- whatever those may be. Our so called leaders venerate democracy in the abstract, while shunning it in practice. Simply put- government *fears* direct democracy, whereas most citizens value the idea.

Direct action is ultimately direct democracy -- it is the direct expression of popular will, in the absence of intermediaries, who have their own agendas.

So, returning to the question, what do anarchists do? The more appropriate question is *what issues are important to you?* Odds are, an anarchist somewhere is working on those issues as I write this. That's the simple beauty of the idea: it empowers everyday people to pursue social justice in their own communities, without relying on leaders or "representatives" to decide what should or should not be done.

But to give you a sense of what areas are of particular concern to anarchists, below are some of the things anarchists are doing right now. A couple other points: this list is by *no means* exhaustive; if you're undertaking something not on this list, let me know and I'll add it! And secondly, many anarchists devote time to several of these issues.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Anarchists oppose the status quo with energy production in the world. Dominated by nonrenewable fossil fuels and toxic nuclear power, we value instead clean alternative energy sources -- things like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. Another reason we value these power sources is they offer *decentralized* energy to people -- which empowers everyday people normally dependent on a centralized power grid.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Anarchists oppose cruelty to animals, particularly in the agriculture industry, but not limited to there (as in the case of furs). We oppose encroachment on the last remaining wildernesses due to capitalist development and ranching. We favor organic farming instead of the wholesale slaughter factories that are typical of modern agribusiness. Some anarchists are vegans, some vegetarians, and some still eat meat, while others further narrow their consumption to only fish, for example. Anarchists recognize that we share this planet with the other species of the world -- we do not rule this world, but cohabitate with the other species. Further, we recognize that biological diversity is a key component to our own survival, and the capitalist extinction-o-rama is going to come back and hurt us in the long run.

DIY MEDIA

Anarchists favor do-it-yourself media in its various forms as a way of weaning ourselves from corporate, capitalist media. This includes zines and pamphlets, but also includes independent broadcast media (the Direct Action Media Network and Independent Media Centres being a good example of this). Anything that challenges the monopoly of the capitalist media is step in the right direction.

EARTH DEFENSE

Anarchists are naturally pro-environmental, and our direct action approach is the bane of corporations everywhere. We bring attention to the abuse of the environment at the hands of polluters and developers, and keep pressure on them to ensure that their environmental misdeeds do not go unnoticed. This is a tough, but vital battle, because corporations employ a variety of hardball tactics to fight anarchists on this one.

FOOD POLITICS

Anarchists recognize that it is unequal distribution of food, rather than an actual shortage of food, which brings about world hunger. We understand that so long as capitalist food companies control distribution, millions will go hungry. Further, we oppose the use of biotechnology to engineer "better" food products, seeing this as a particularly nefarious extension of corporate values in claiming the very food we eat as personal property.

GENDER AND RACE ISSUES

Anarchists recognize that human beings are one species, and are all ultimately brothers and sisters. We oppose all forms of discrimination and work actively to raise awareness of it when it occurs and to deal with it directly. We are tireless foes of all hate groups, working to bring about solidarity instead of division.

INTERNET

Anarchists value the Internet as the largest anarchistic institution in existence to date. We value the free expression of ideas and the absence (so far) of a central authority. We want more people to have access to the Internet to further democratize the medium. We also value the Net as a genuine competitor to the monopoly of the corporate media.

MICROPOWER RADIO

Anarchists support micropower radio as a community-based, local medium that serves many of the functions of traditional radio without being corporate. Local media need more encouragement than ever in the face of continuing corporate media conglomeration.

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING

Anarchists are strong supporters of local organizing -- we recognize that anarchism is only possible amid thriving communities, and put our energies into creating decentralized networks of anarchists. We recognize that no (inter)national platform can possibly embrace all possible situations, so we keep our attention on our own communities, and how larger issues can affect our communities.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Anarchists recognize that students are among the most oppressed people in our society, viewed alternately as mindless automatons or private property, not worthy of the rights enjoyed by adults. We try to help students organize themselves to pursue their own interests and to stake out their rights as human beings, and to give them a genuine understanding of their own personal empowerment by way of direct action.

TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

Anarchists support public and alternative transportation as ways of dealing with a host of issues, including pollution and urban sprawl. We support rethinking the city under more people-friendly lines, and try to call attention to transportation issues as they arise.

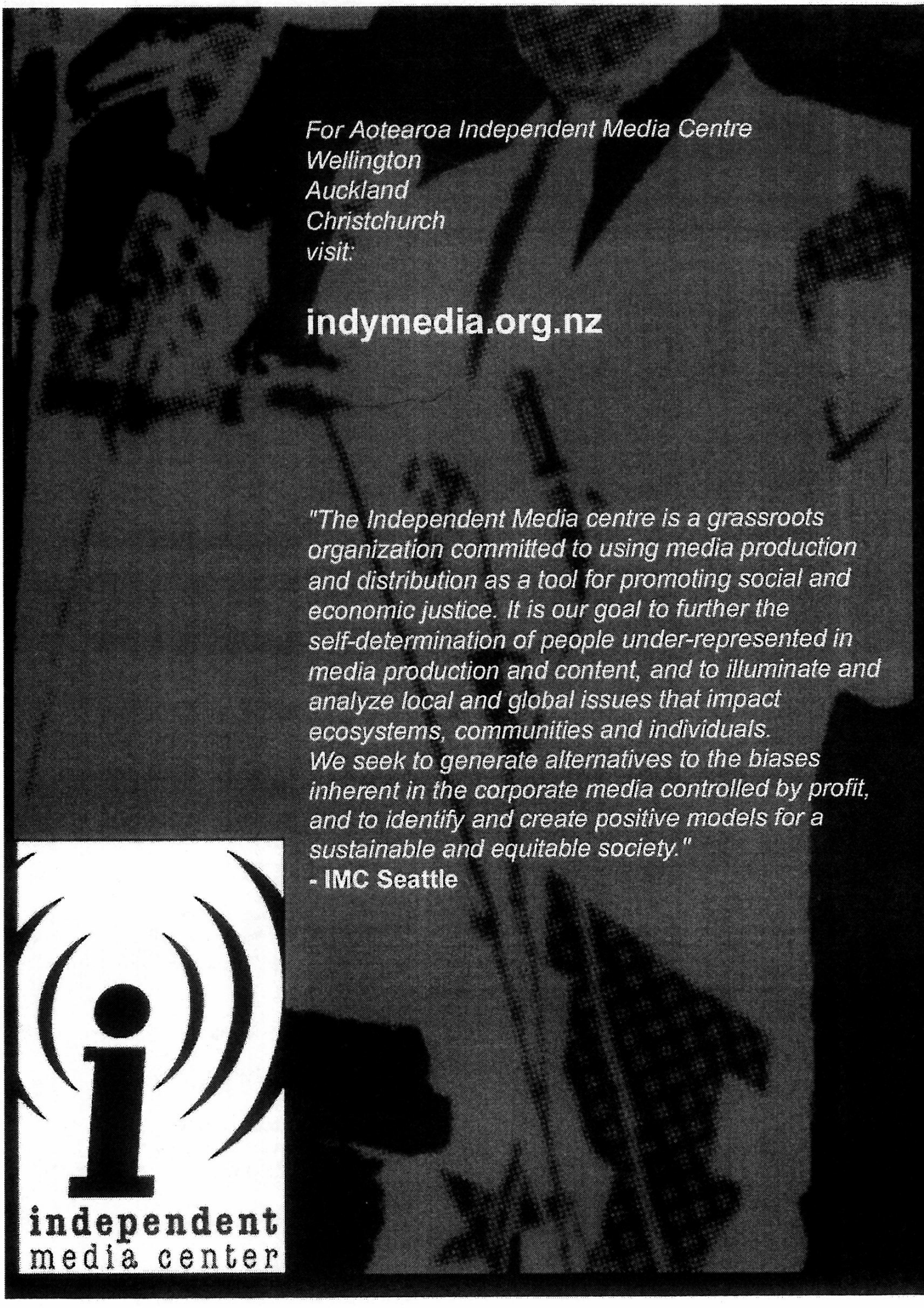
WORKPLACE ORGANIZING

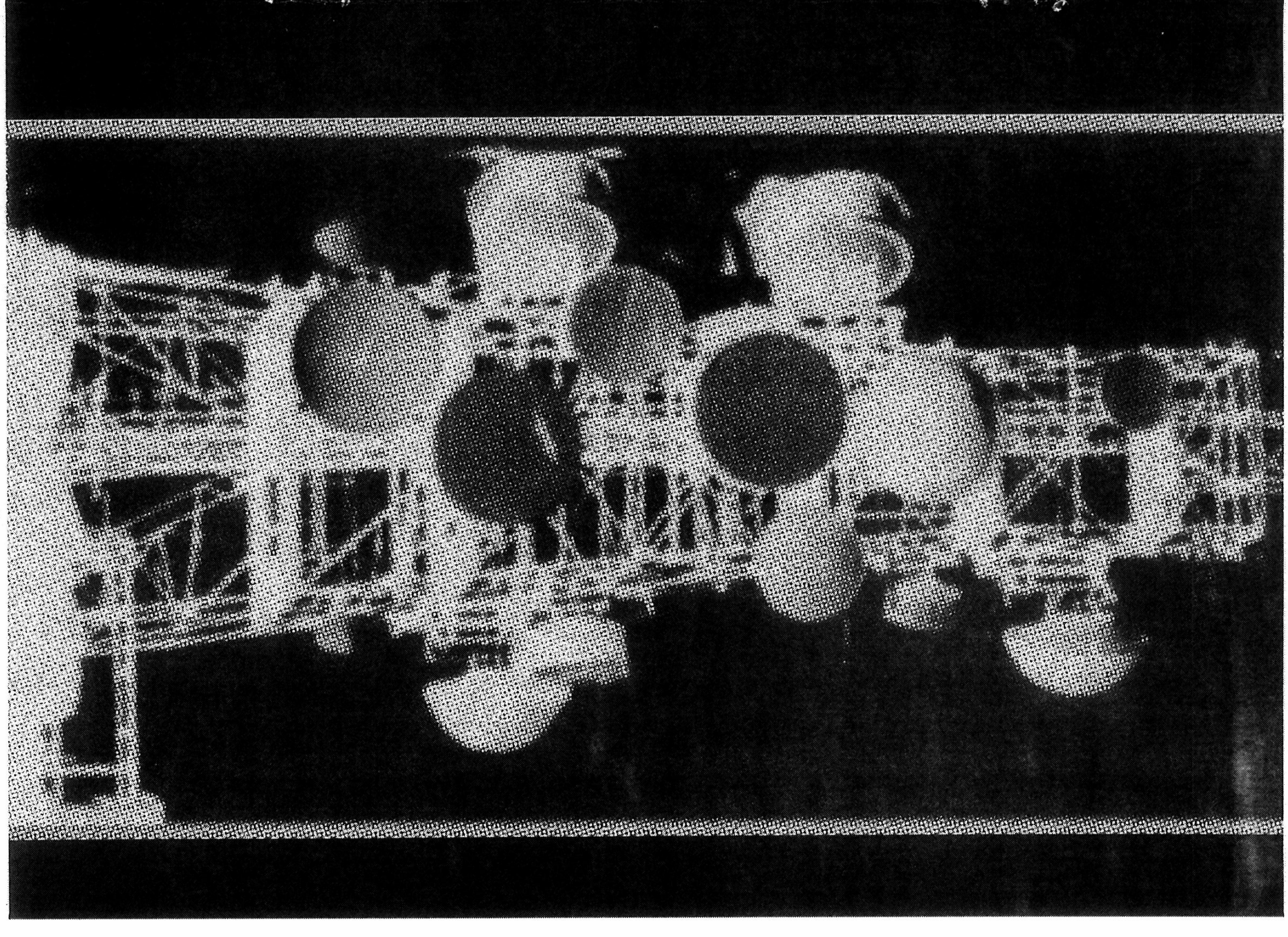
Anarchists are strong advocates of unionism, recognizing that the corporate world is not the friend of the working person. We favor initiative at the rank-and-file level, instead of at the hands of union hierarchies. We favor putting bosses out of work. We recognize that the workplace is the *least* democratic institution in society, and want to radically change that situation.

This should give you something of a sense of what anarchists are actually about. Many of these issues are given lip service by so-called progressives and liberals, you may notice. What sets anarchists apart is that where others advocate for these issues in your stead, anarchists pursue them directly. Simply put, we don't trust someone to advocate on our behalf -- we'd much rather do it ourselves.

An example of this would be with the environment: where the liberal Sierra Club or Greenpeace will sit down with corporate polluters and cut deals with them in secret -- typically to the detriment of the environment -- Earth First! will actively fight the corporations in the field, bringing much-needed attention to the issue at hand.

We hope you'll join us, although keep in mind that we're not like any other political organization -- there is no Anarchist Party or anything like that. We are a popular movement, representing many different people with many different views and ideas. There is no uniform doctrine, except our commitment to social justice and direct action. We feel that's a source of strength for us -- strength through diversity.


For Aotearoa Independent Media Centre
Wellington
Auckland
Christchurch
visit:
indymedia.org.nz
"The Independent Media centre is a grassroots organization committed to using media production and distribution as a tool for promoting social and economic justice. It is our goal to further the self-determination of people under-represented in media production and content, and to illuminate and analyze local and global issues that impact ecosystems, communities and individuals.
We seek to generate alternatives to the biases inherent in the corporate media controlled by profit, and to identify and create positive models for a sustainable and equitable society."
- IMC Seattle
independent
media center



Counter-Terrorism Legislation And Suppression Of Dissent

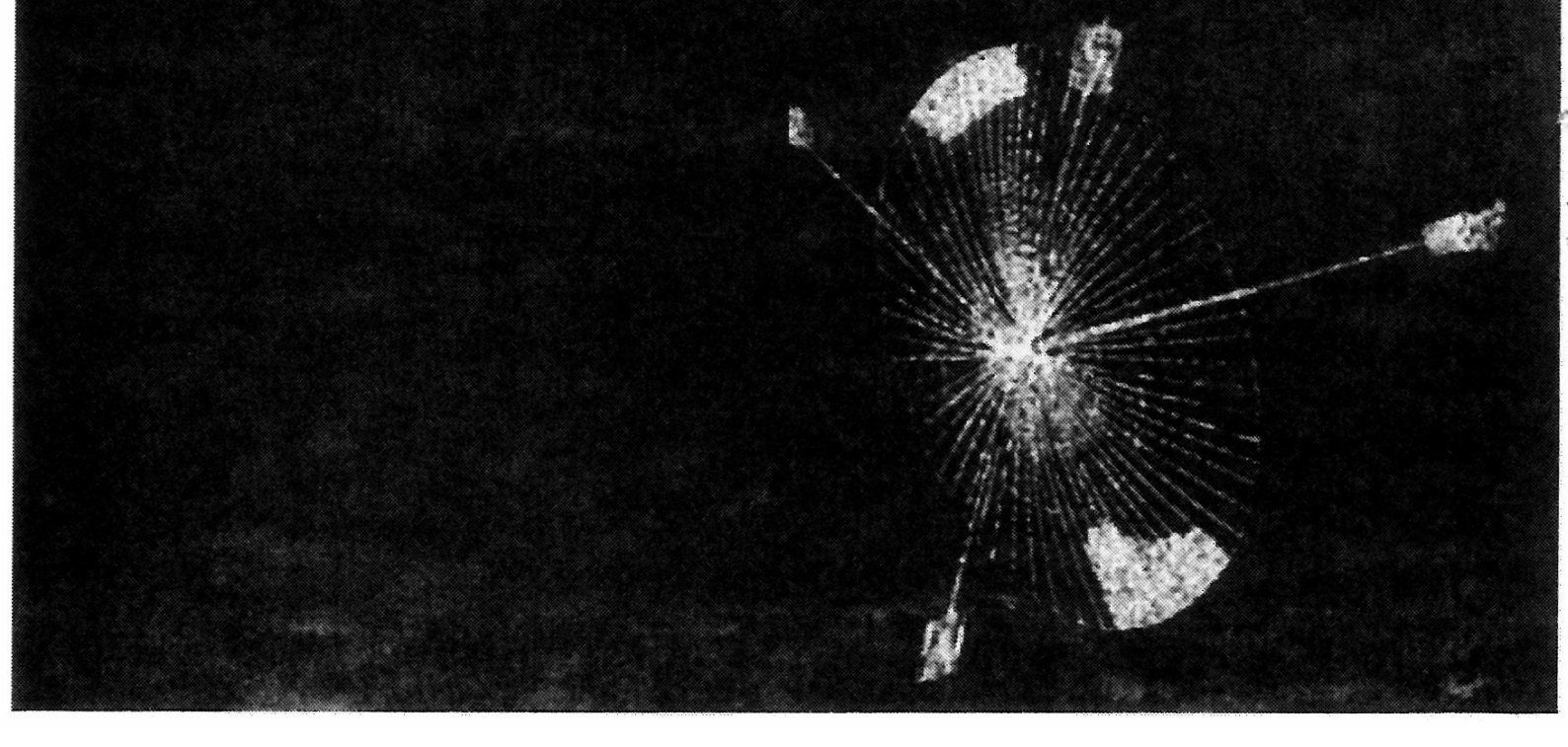
Human rights organizations operating in New Zealand may now be shut down and members may be summarily imprisoned and extradited – thanks to the counter-terrorism legislation passed in Parliament.

Under the Terrorism Suppression Act passed last October, the government is entitled to arrest and charge ordinary people with any number of activities that relate to terror: from manufacturing plastic explosives to sponsoring terrorist organizations. These charges (and any evidence) may also be kept secret – from the public as well as from the alleged terrorists. Furthermore, these alleged terrorists are to be handed over at the request of the UN Security Council, unless there is proof to the contrary. The absurdity of asking for exonerating evidence to secret charges is cause enough to be afraid, but it does get worse.

The law is so vague about what terrorism actually is that non-symbolic political action such strikes or sabotage can be cause enough for terrorism charges. Unfortunately, this means that liberation movements like Freitlin in East Timor or ANC in South Africa would have fitted the definition of "terrorist organization" adopted by the government. So would any number of peace groups, student organizations and trade unions that have engaged in civil disobedience or industrial action during the war with Iraq.

With the introduction of this legislation, the government can legally harass political activists by means of surveillance, arrest and arbitrary detention. Those who believe they have nothing to fear because they have done nothing illegal might do well to remember Aziz Choudry. An anti-APEC activist, Aziz Choudry successfully sued the government after two SIS agents had been caught breaking into his home – before the SIS Amendement Act, legalizing such behavior, was passed.

We have collected some of the most contentious legislation that has been passed or is in process in New Zealand. Read through and mentally substitute the word "terrorist" with "political activist" as appropriate.



National Security And Counter-Terrorism Legislation in Aotearoa

"The following individual pieces of legislation together add up to an attack on our privacy and civil liberties. Acts have already been passed by Parliament, but Bills can still be stopped or amended if the public protest." Keith Locke, Green MP

SIS Amendment Act 1999 - PASSED
Allows SIS (Security Intelligence Service) agents to break into private houses with a self-issued warrant

Terrorism Suppression Act 2002 – PASSED (fast-tracked)
Outlaws the financing of terrorist organizations
Obliges computer users to incriminate themselves by revealing their passwords
Allows the withholding of evidence against accused person
Allows arrest and imprisonment at the request of the UN Security Council

Definition of "terrorism" may be applied to civil disobedience or industrial action

PENDING:

Counter-Terrorism Bill
Allows the police, SIS, GCSB (Government Communications Security Bureau) to use tracking devices
Allows customs agents to seize property controlled or owned by terrorist organizations
Allows evidence seized in investigation of one crime to be used for the prosecution of another

Telecommunications (Interception Capability Bill)
Requires that existing telecommunications infrastructure is overhauled to provide interception capability to the police, SIS and the GCSB

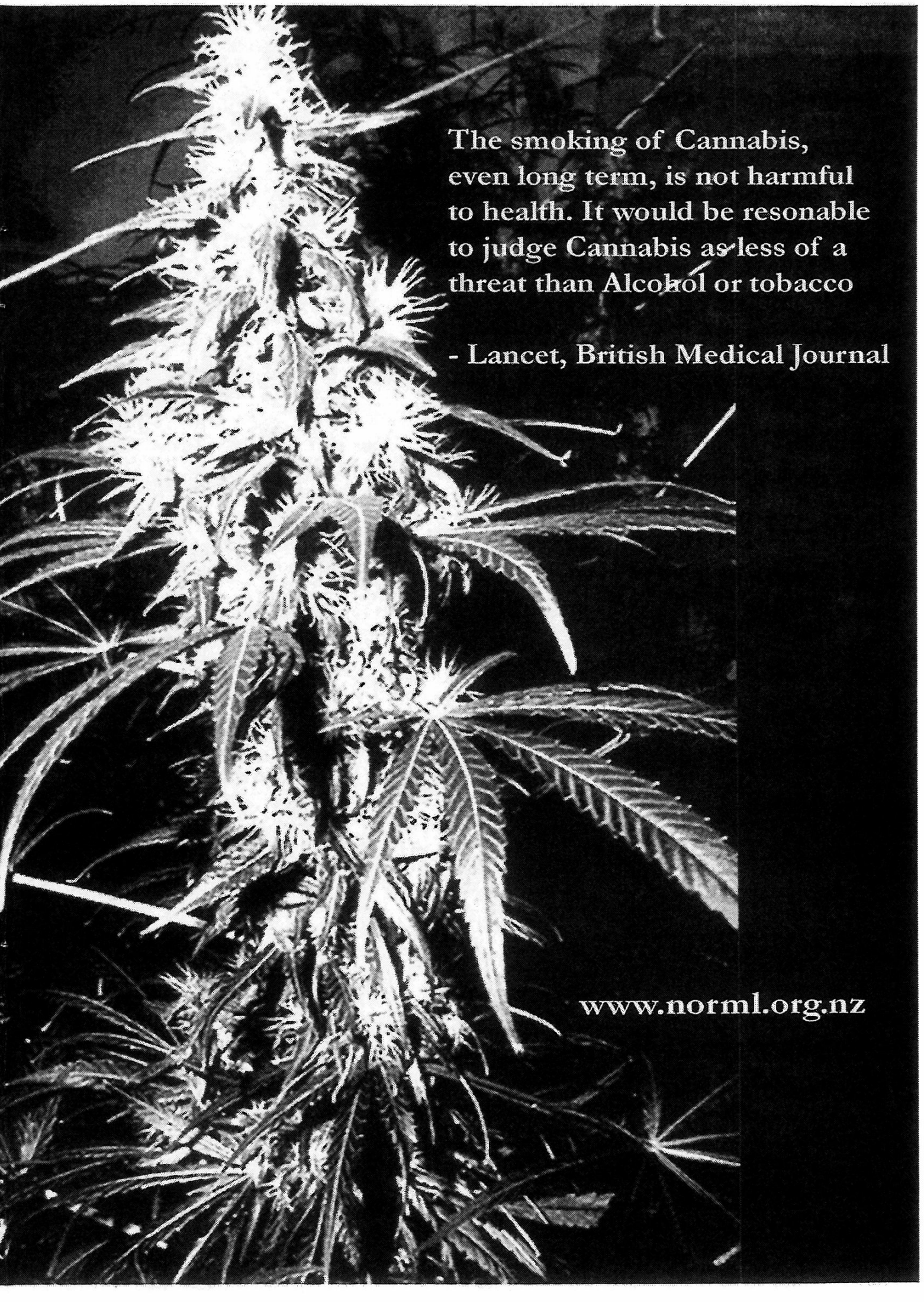
Crimes Amendment Bill No.6
The police can break into private computers and intercept communications with a warrant
The SIS can break into private computers with an internally-issued warrant
The GCSB can break into private computers and intercept communications arbitrarily

Call up for Creative AUCKLAND BASED
supporters of Human Rights Defenders

anyone that wants to be part of street theatre
"prisoners of conscience wearing chains in a cage"
in downtown Devonport on Friday 8th August

should call Amnesty 09 3034525 as on this
day "Freedom Day" there's a NZ wide publicity &
fundraising effort on behalf of human rights
defenders.

Ciao
Chris
PS:Important to ask 4 Chas Burgess Amnesty member,
Devonport resident & contact person
SEE info @ amnesty.org.nz


The smoking of Cannabis, even long term, is not harmful to health. It would be resonable to judge Cannabis as less of a threat than Alcohol or tobacco
- Lancet, British Medical Journal
www.norml.org.nz

The Nighttime Gardener

[This guide has been significantly edited for space, a complete version is available as a part of "Anarchism In Action" at http://www.radio4all.org/aia/]

Greetings. The following guide was put together for the WTO gathering in the hopes that people from all over the continent would find this informational useful and inspiring. The corporate biotechnology onslaught embodies the New World Order perhaps better than any other issue. Johnna Appleseed of Reclaim the Seeds, one of several nighttime gardening groups, describes it well: "If you care about wildlife and think the natural world is fine without mutant genes, you should resist genetic engineering. If you care about social justice and don't want to poison farm workers with pesticides and herbicides, you should resist genetic engineering. If you care about biological and cultural diversity as opposed to a global corporate monoculture, you should resist genetic engineering. If you care about laboratory animals and don't want researchers creating hybrid genetic monsters, you should resist genetic engineering. If you eat food, you should resist genetic engineering. If not you, then who? If not now, when? Resistance to genetic engineering is as transnational as capital."

Evening Attire for The Nighttime Gardener

A forensic scientist can tell roughly where you've been from the composition of the dirt and soil that you will have picked up on your travels. Say, for instance, you've been gardening at a Monsanto test site of GE corn, then traces of earth will be upon you, as will traces of plant life, such as pollen that you may have brushed against.

These traces are used to put you at a certain place, and in some instances, at a certain time. Once again, it is best to dispose of any gardening clothing. i.e. give up your attachment to your clothes! And before you leave for the action, empty your pockets and don't bring along anything (even to leave in a vehicle) you don't need and wouldn't want to see in court.

On soft surfaces, such as mud, earth, dog shit, etc., shoe impressions will be left behind. From these marks identification can be made. The only sensible thing to do is to wear old shoes and to throw them a long way away immediately afterwards. Shoes (and clothes) will also carry traces away with them, such as oil, gas, glass splinters and other such gardening giveaways. Don't wear them in your vehicle or in your home. When gardening in urban areas, consider the impact that you may have on a passer-by wearing all black from head to toe. Wearing inconspicuous clothes such as dark pants and a hooded sweatshirt may serve the purpose.

The Nighttime Gardener's Toolbox

Bolt cutters are good for getting through locked gates or into greenhouses. Another technique for gaining access into glass greenhouses is to duck tape a square one could crawl through, and then punch it in. The tape will muffle sound by absorbing the blow and keeping the glass from scattering all over the ground. There are also hand-held, manual, spring-loaded punches which paramedics use to break glass on car windows that work very well. Corrugated plastic greenhouses can be cut into with a sharp knife as well.

Another tool for rows of some crops is a strong board with holes in both ends through which a rope is strung. The board is placed on the ground, and then the gardener puts a foot on top of it and lifts up the rope to a comfortable waist height. Then, the gardener can go step by step stomping down the crops, and avoid stooping or kneeling on the ground, which can easily get very tiring.

If you do use any tools, make sure they are cleaned of all fingerprints before taken on site. A good way to clear up those pesky fingerprints is with warm, soapy water. In a time-crunch, extensive rubbing with cloth can be satisfactory. Be thorough: even the batteries inside a flashlight have been touched, and you wouldn't want to drop anything while you were out and about!

For a smooth night of gardening it is best to bring along a reliable set of radios and a scanner. Remove all serial numbers on the radios, and make sure you purchase them discreetly and with cash. Ear pieces work best while gardening because they free up your hands. Check everything thoroughly before you leave, wipe them down, and have extra batteries. You can then be in communication with your driver (and other gardeners) and they can alert you to any possible disturbances.

The Best Time To Go

The best gardening time for the shy gardener is obviously at night. And at the new moon is better than when it is full. You have two main choices: early a.m. is quite dead, but remember how long the job will take, starting earlier in the evening will give you more of an excuse to be out and about. Try and start at a time that provides you with enough time to garden thoroughly for the specific site and have a buffer for the drop-offs/pick-ups if they take longer than expected, which is common. Agricultural areas or neighborhood garden plots can be a busy place as farmers usually get an early start on the day, sometimes before dawn. At this time a flash-beam or light of any sort will draw attention. Cover flashlights with blue or red saran wrap, tinted tape, or a gel to filter the stark white light into something more subtle.

It is worth bearing in mind that when it's raining hard it will wash away most traces and provide visual and audio cover. You'll often get drenched from the dew alone. It is a good idea to scout your site of interest at many different times throughout the day/night to get a clear idea of what the scene is like.

An all-night recon is a really good idea to make sure the garden is right for you. There may be cameras at university test sites/greenhouses or biotech corporation labs/sites/greenhouses. For the main part, these cameras serve to deter potential "gardeners," and instill a healthy sense of paranoia. Paranoia, Nah! Those who are careful stay free!

How To Spot Your Crop

Firstly, the timing of your harvest is important if you want to actually sabotage their research and cause economic damage. Too early could let them replant, and too late could harvest their crop for them! Just before flowering obviously prevents the mutant genes from escaping through the plant's pollen, and if you can't get it by then, you can cut down the plant before the seeds are fully developed. Don't just harvest the beans or corncob either, harvest the whole plant from the stalk/stems, or better yet, pull it right up out of the ground. A slick trick would be to bag up some of the offending matter and leave it on the doorstep of the facility, or on your local USDA or State Ag. Dept.'s doorstep!

It's important to research WHAT you are targeting and WHO. Considering how pervasive commercial GE crops are, it's a good idea to target research, both at universities and corporate facilities (is there really any difference??). Industry links up with local farmers as "co-operators" to grow seed and test varieties in their fields, often in return for advertising their more impressive trials with big signs advertising the company and the variety. Oftentimes you may see signs for a certain company's seed trials in a field that is obviously belonging to a small farmer (there may be a house and driveway and family-type items around the yard). Targeting these types of sites will likely bring into question the intentions of night gardeners and may confuse the message of opposing the Ag-Biotech industry by targeting already desperate farmers.

What To Do When You Get There

Obviously the number of people you need will depend on the size of the GE site. Most sites can be done quite happily with 2-4 gardeners. The actual work could be 1 hour, or it could be all night. For larger sites you may need many gardeners, but it's harder to avoid detection in larger numbers. Again, make sure you're suitably dressed and scout out the site extensively, including in/out routes and an emergency escape plan/meeting place if things go awry. The group should decide what to do if confronted with an angry farmer. Instead of everyone scattering on their own, we strongly recommend sticking together as a group, at least at first, and then making a call to scatter if necessary.

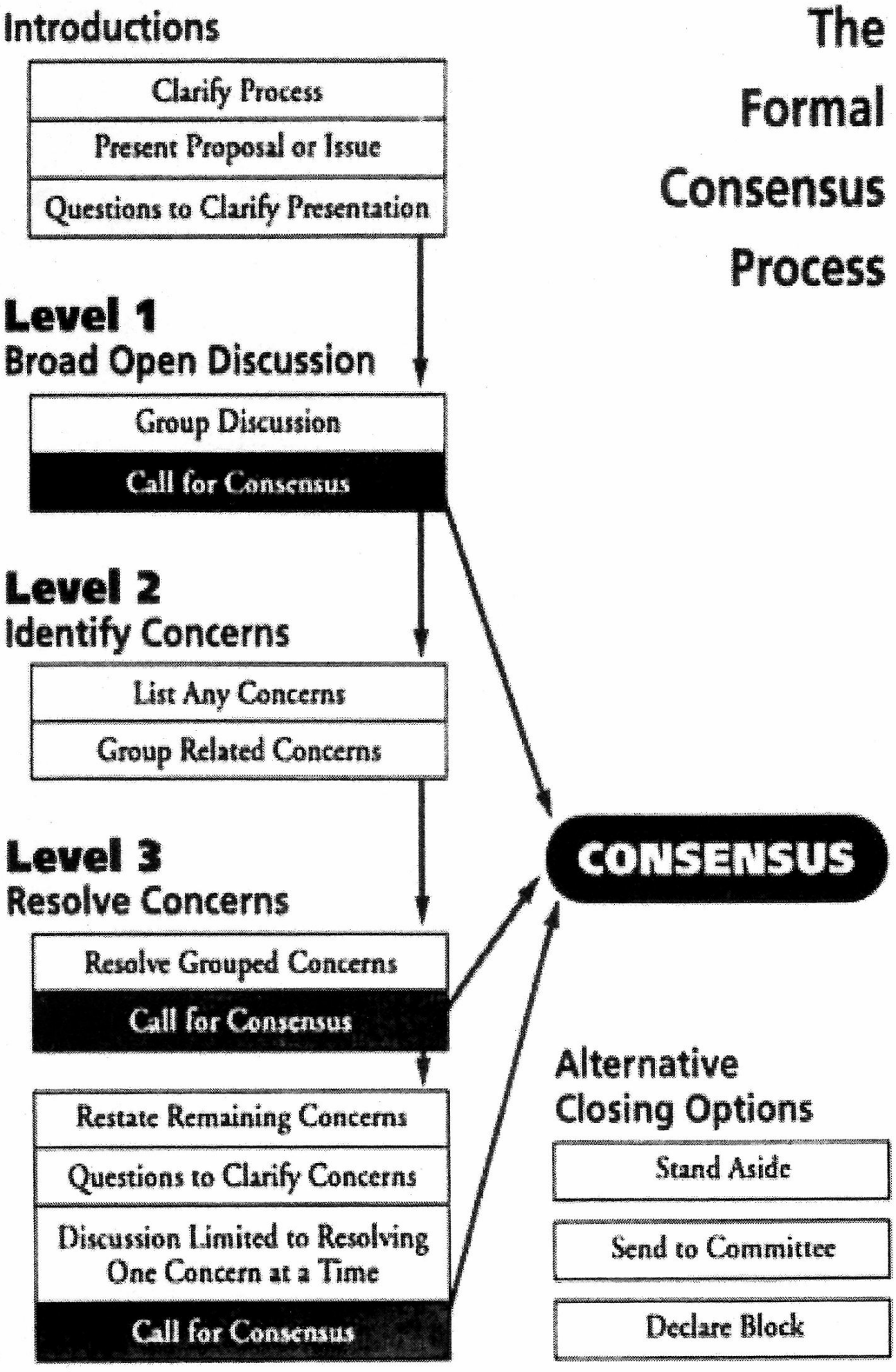
Remember, a well-placed sheet over a camera can have a rather numbing effect on their security. A well-placed kick or spray paint shot over the lens can do the same.

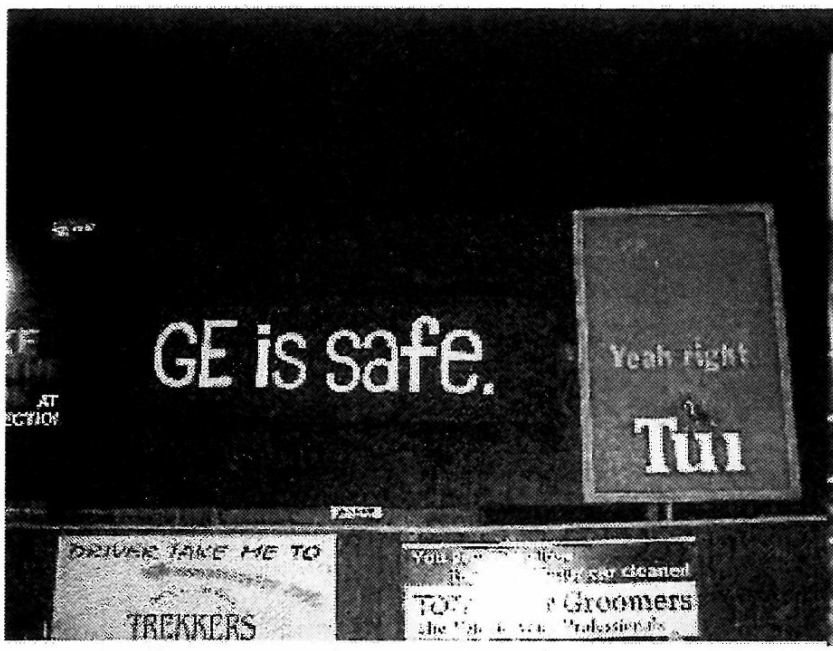
The goal is to destroy the plants: you will either have to snap them off at the stem, or when uprooted pull them apart at times. At a release site in East Anglia (England), sugar beet was uprooted and left lying on the site. It was later replanted by the farmer (and later still, dug up by concerned gardeners and removed from the site). In 1987, the Strawberry Liberation Front in the U.S. pulled up a crop of strawberries that were to be sprayed with ice-minus bacteria. For the photo opportunity the next day, the scientist placed the strawberries back in the holes from which they'd been pulled.

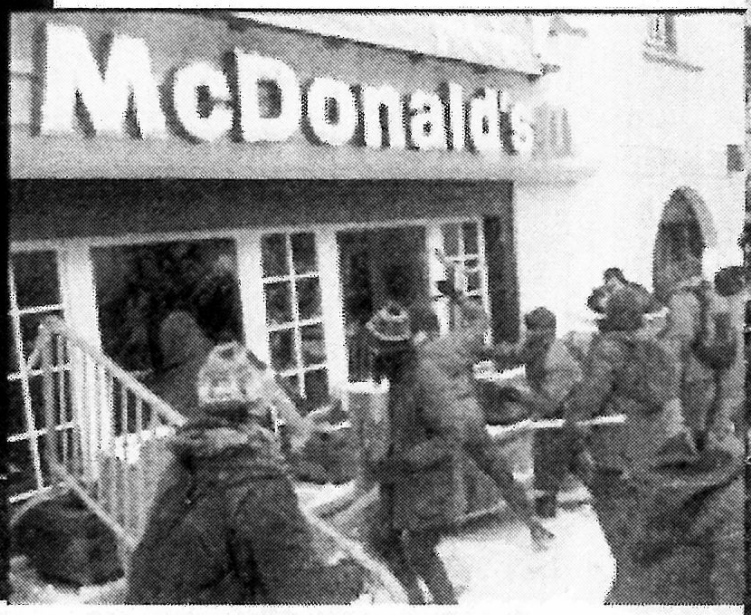
Remember, the test sites are experiments (with our future). If your aim is to disrupt this misguided experiment then you may not need to destroy all of the crop. Destroying 50-75% of the research plants will call into question any data collected. It will also disrupt the experiment if all the markers and identification tags are scattered around or taken, but be safe. Dont stick them in your closet. Make the garden messy, and it is less likely to be considered salvageable. Scattering bags and bags of organic or non/GE seeds can also ruin a test site and spread a little bit of consciousness as well. A good idea is to scatter seed in the beginning of the season and not issue a communique about it until a month later. By that time, your seeds have wreaked havoc on the GE varieties.

Don't forget to target irrigation equipment, greenhouses, solar thermometers and the like. Groups such as Reclaim The Seeds and the Future Farmers have sabotaged thousands of dollars of this sort of equipment in different actions. It is suggested that computers, data files, clipboards with research information, and other documentation should be removed for our own research, or quietly destroyed.

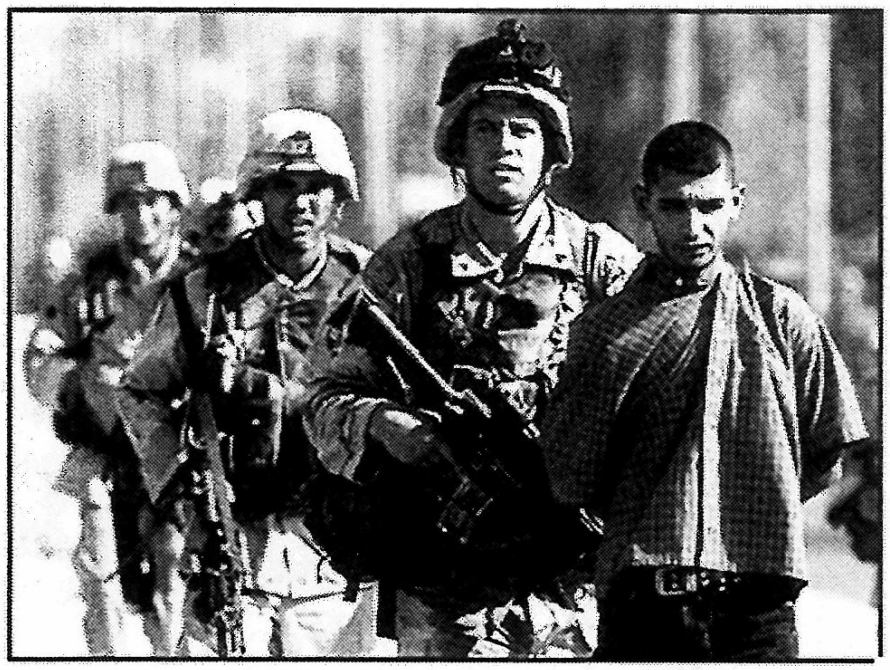
The Formal Consensus Process







Iraq: US Soldiers Arrest Teenager Who Made Fun of Them



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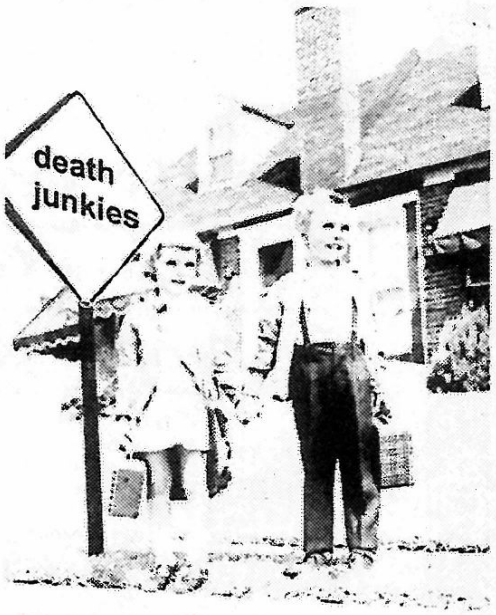
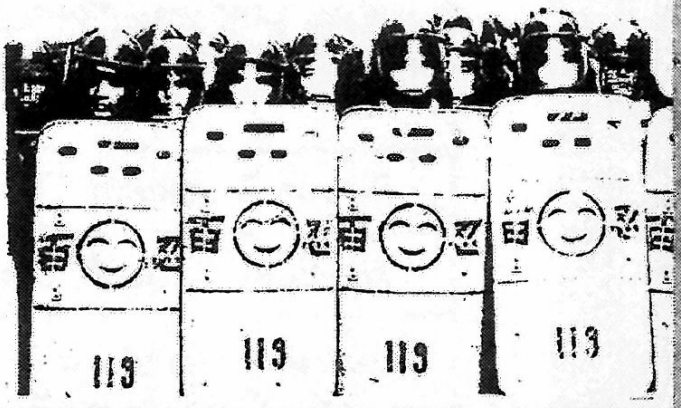
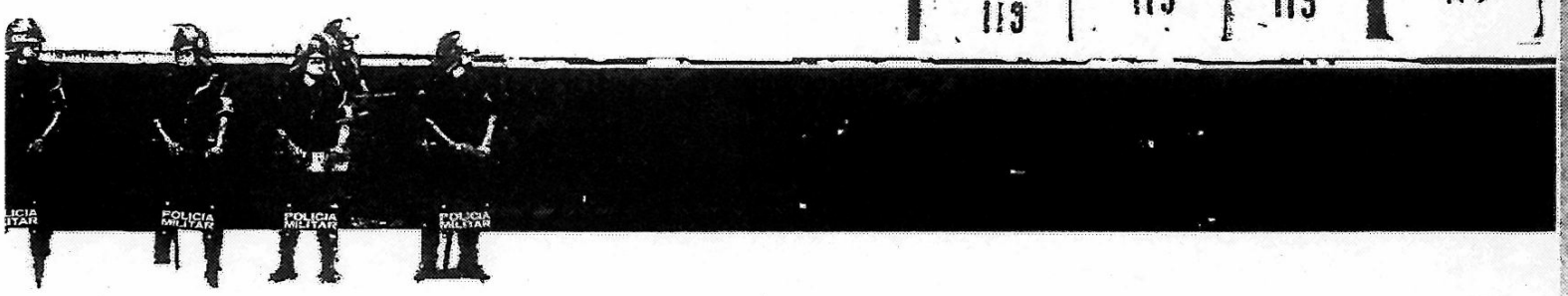
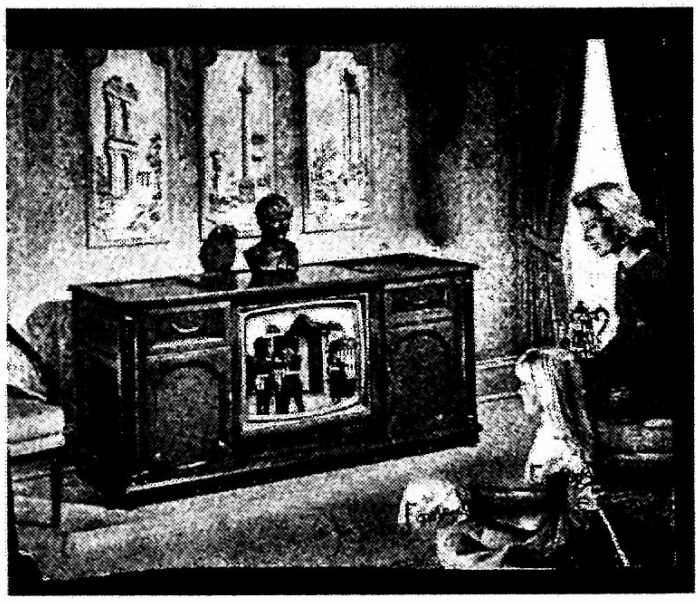


A US soldier leads arrested 17-year-old student Khaled Salim with his hands tied behind his back towards a waiting army truck in the southern Baghdad suburb of Dura. Salim was arrested on his way to school, as a warning to others after he insulted US troops. US soldiers carried out house-to-house searches in Dura, detaining two people and confiscating weapons.(AFP/Ramzi Haidar)







Kissinger and Clark Discuss North Korean Nuclear Threat - Former United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (infamous for ties with the Suharto regime-ed.) met with New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark **Sunday, 27 July 2003**, in Seoul to discuss the North Korea nuclear crisis. On exiting the Hyatt Hotel meeting in Seoul, Kissinger stressed talks with North Korea must be advanced. He said the United States intends to play a major role in encouraging North Korea to rethink its move to equip itself with nuclear weapons, and is determined not to allow China to appear the Peace-Maker on this issue.

Did Clark pass on a message to Kissinger *[the Bush Administration's close 'friend']* on behalf of South Korea, and China?

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